THE IOWA NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY IN ACTION

Applying science-based solutions to improve soil health and water quality

WHAT IS THE IOWA NUTRIENT REDUCTION STRATEGY?

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (INRS) outlines voluntary efforts to reduce nutrients in surface water from both point sources, such as wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farm fields and urban areas, in a scientific, reasonable and cost-effective manner.

DNR	IDALS	IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Point Source Lead	Nonpoint Source Lead	Science/Research Lead

HOW IS IDALS WORK FUNDED?

Function	FY25	How is it used?
Traditional Soil Conservation	$16.325 million	Terraces, buffers, grassed waterways, grazing systems, sedimentation ponds, reduced tillage, and cover crops
Traditional Water Quality	$1.775 million	Wetlands and groundwater protection
Water Quality Initiative	$28.425 million	Edge-of-field infrastructure practices (wetlands, saturated buffers, bioreactors, etc.), cover crops, urban water quality infrastructure projects, demonstration projects, and watershed/systems-based projects (batch and builds)
	$46.525 million	

Matched by $489.5 million from USDA and $31.2 million from farmers, landowners and NGO partners (FY23).

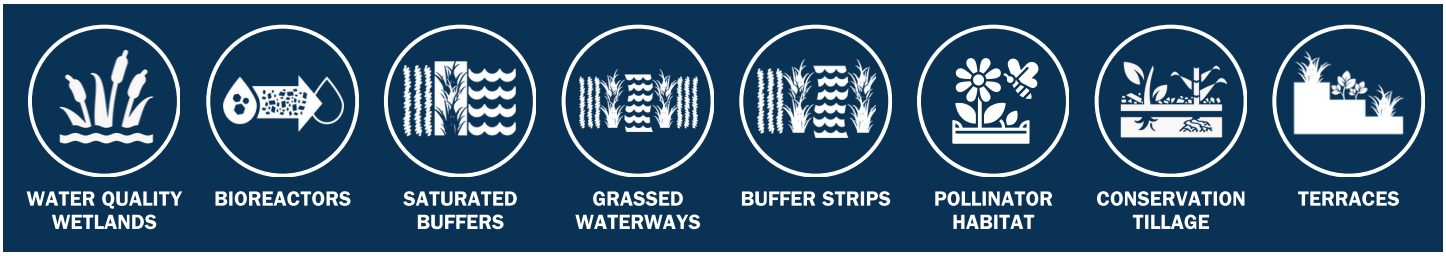
PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

IDALS works with farmers to incorporate a suite of conservation practices depending on what works best for each acre.

Edge of Field Practices	Batch and Build projects in 28 counties 294 saturated buffers and 253 bioreactors built statewide **2025**: Active construction of batch-and-build projects in the Middle Cedar and North Raccoon watersheds and kicked off a new batch-and-build project in the Beaver Creek watershed
Water Quality Wetlands	147 constructed to date 90 in various stages of development **2025**: Initiated more water quality wetland construction projects in one fiscal year than ever before
Cover Crops	Nearly 4 million acres statewide in 2024 **2025**: Saw record demand for cover crop cost-share and extended the program for an additional two weeks to allow more farmers and landowners to participate
Working Lands	5,778 acres converted from cropland to pasture and hay ground **2025**: Expanded successful cattle and conservation working lands project, now active in eight counties
Management Practices	No-till and conservation tillage usage has averaged 70% of statewide corn and soybean acres planted since 2017 **2025**: Iowa State University launched the NFACT tool for farmers, using hundreds of data points to provide optimal fertilizer recommendation rates for each acre
Buffers	**2025**: Introduced a new $3 million streamside buffer pilot project to encourage farmers and landowners living upstream from Des Moines and Cedar Rapids to add perennial buffers and layer with saturated buffers/bioreactors
Partners	Nearly 450 public and private partners statewide, including local, state, and federal agencies, farmers and landowners, agribusinesses, and conservation organizations

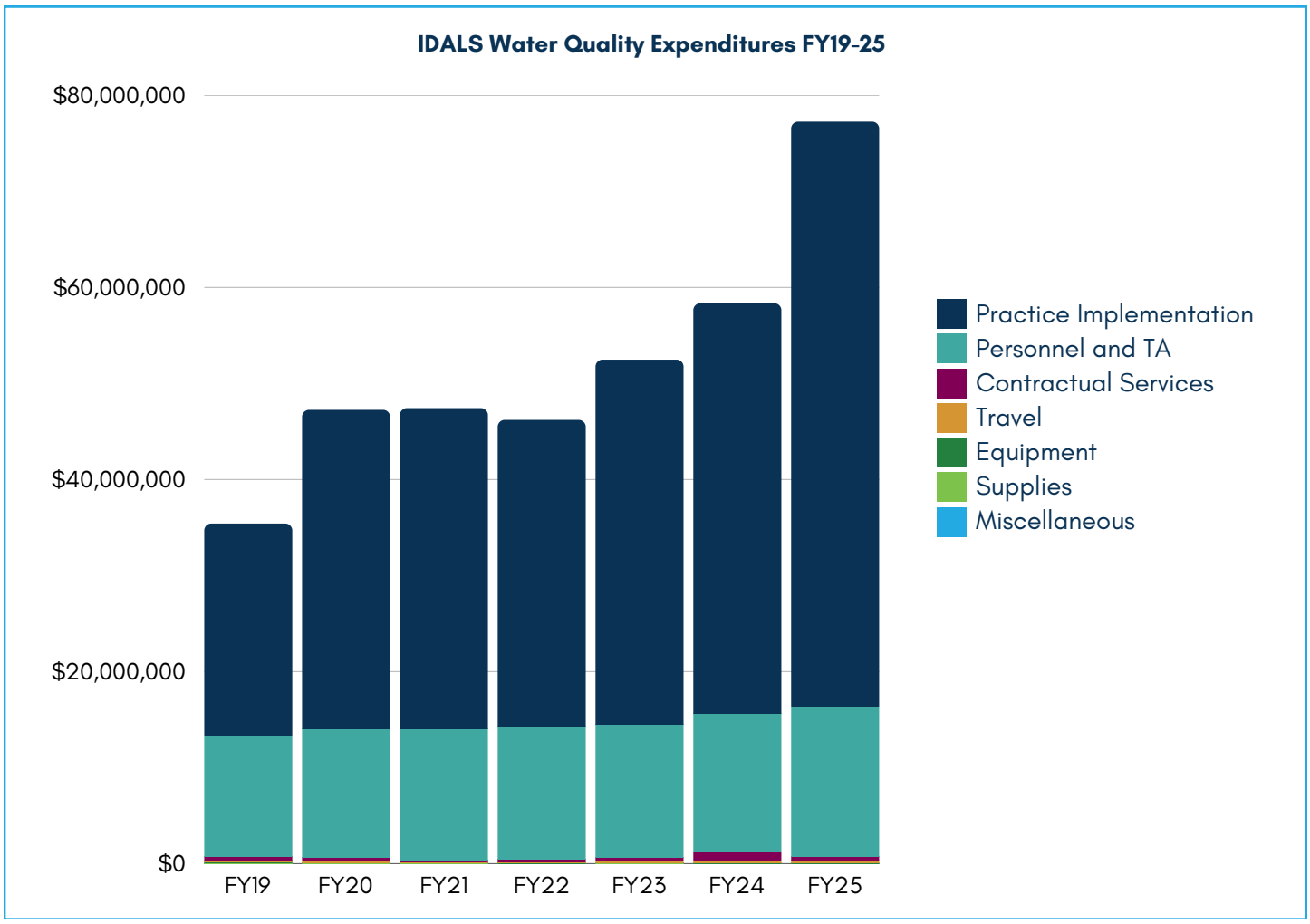
IOWA RANKS #1 IN THE NATION FOR CORN, PORK, EGG AND BIOFUEL PRODUCTION.

Iowa also ranks #1 for:



MAKING MEASURABLE PROGRESS

With dedicated, long-term funding beginning in FY19, IDALS has been able to accelerate the pace and scale of conservation practice adoption across the state. IDALS utilizes a variety of innovative approaches and delivery models that remove barriers and make it easier for farmers to say yes to conservation.



A detailed dashboard covering outcomes and progress can be found online at the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy Dashboard.